



SHPO News

The State Historic Preservation Office

Michigan Historical Center

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES

SHPO Update

Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

The State Historic Preservation Office has seen many recent changes. Now part of the new Department of History Arts and Libraries, the SHPO has a new post office box mailing address and new email addresses as noted in the directory. **Heather Harrison (now Edwards)**, former designation assistant, left in September to take the staff position with the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission. **Dale Reid**, former grants coordinator, took on other responsibilities in the Department of State after the transfer of the SHPO to the new department. **Teresa Goforth** joined the SHPO staff in late summer to serve as grants coordinator. Teresa has a M.A. in history from Michigan State University and worked for five years as the director of Courthouse Square, Inc., a nonprofit organization that oversees the use and preservation of the former Eaton County Courthouse in Charlotte. **Alexandra Raven** joined the Environmental Review staff of the SHPO also in late summer. Alexandra has a B.S. in anthropology from Grand Valley State University, worked on several archaeological projects for the Mackinac State Historic Parks and is currently working on her M.S. in the historic preservation program at Eastern Michigan University.



Left to right. Back row: Brian Grennell, Martha MacFarlane Faes, Dean Anderson, Amy Arnold, Robert Christensen. Middle row: Cecilia Montalvo, Brian Conway, Teresa Goforth, Bryan Lijewski. Front row: Robbert McKay, Elizabeth Szufnar, Alexandra Raven, Laura Ashlee, Squire Jaros. Not pictured: John Halsey and Barbara Mead.

SHPO's New Mailing Address:

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Michigan Historical Center,
Department of History, Arts and Libraries

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Historic Preservation Program Directory

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Office of the State Archaeologist

John Halsey
Barbara Mead
Dean Anderson

State Historic Preservation Officer
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Historical Markers & Publications
National Register Coordinator
Centennial Farm Coordinator
Survey, CLG, Local Dist & Planning

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The Building Doctor

Dear Dr. Roof:

I'll be the first to admit that I am lazy and a procrastinator. However, the time has come for me to paint the outside of my house. I'm psyching myself up for this, but I need some advice. The south and west sides are peeling pretty badly. I am getting a variety of recommendations from contractors, and on top of that I have no idea what colors to choose. My mother tells me to put up white vinyl siding and be done with it. **HELP!**

Signed,

Mrs. Roy G. Biv

Dear Mrs. Biv:

Preparation is a key to any successful painting project. It is critical that the new paint be applied to a sound, dry surface. For best results with chipping, peeling or flaking paint, use a hand paint scraper to remove the loose materials. If the area of failed paint extends through several layers it may be necessary to lightly hand sand the edges of the work area to taper off or feather the edges of the patch to reduce visibility.

In this age of heightened health and environmental awareness it is important to keep in mind that if your home was painted prior to 1978 you are likely to encounter some lead in the existing paint layers. The key points to remember are: 1) don't make dust, 2) don't burn it, and 3) clean up your mess. Focus on a small area at a time; work only on damp surfaces; and collect all paint chips on a plastic tarp that can be thrown away after scraping in each area is complete. An excellent reference on appropriate lead hazard management techniques is *Maintaining A Lead Safe Home* by Dennis

Livingston.

Once the loose materials are removed the building should be washed using a mild detergent and a soft brush. Water pressure higher than garden hose pressure is unnecessary and can potentially drive water into the wall cavity that can take months to escape. Trapped moisture resulting from pressure washing prior to painting will guarantee a significantly reduced paint life.

With the prep work behind you, selecting your paint is the next major task. When selecting your paints there are several things to consider. First, if scraping/sanding has revealed raw wood these areas should be primed using an oil based primer. Oil paints, though somewhat more difficult to work with, have a longer drying time than latex products, which typically produces a better initial wood paint bond. Second, with the bare wood primed it's on to the topcoat. When selecting the topcoat, 100% acrylic latex paints are a good choice. They are easy to work with, readily available, environmentally friendly and can be tinted to just about any color you can imagine. The final consideration is the paint's texture, or finish. Paints typically come in one of four finishes; flat, satin, semi-gloss and high gloss. Many historical interior and exterior paints produce a flat finish and if historical accuracy is your goal, flat paint is probably your best bet. However, if you are looking for a finish that is a bit more self-cleaning, satin or semi-gloss is a better choice. Commonly these types of paint are a bit more costly than flat paint but the ability to clean and the durability is worth the modest cost difference. Additional guidance on paint failure problems is available from *Preservation Brief #10: Exterior Paint Problems on*

Historic Woodwork.

Choosing paint colors for your home really isn't as difficult as it might seem. Start by determining when your house was built and in what style. This will give you a good idea of what is appropriate. For example, a 1910 colonial revival house should have a different paint scheme than an 1890 Queen Anne. A little research at the library or on the internet will lead you to some good sources. For example, *Paint in America*, edited by Roger W. Moss would be a good start. In addition, most major paint manufacturers provide historic color palettes to assist you in choosing appropriate colors. Research will also show you what colors these companies were making during a given year.

Other things to take into consideration in selecting paint colors include the existing colors on your home that you can't easily change. What is the color of the roof? What is the color of the foundation? Do you have a brick façade or prominent brick components? These colors should all be taken into consideration and should be tied into your paint color scheme.

Finally, you have to live in your house, so be happy with your paint color selections. Buy a quart of your base and trim colors and then paint a small section on the back of your house. Do you like how it looks? Look at it a week from now. Do you still like it? Its important to design a color scheme that will be appropriate for your style house and one that will make you smile.

PAINT – IT'S A VERY GOOD THING!

The building doctor would be happy to answer your question. Please submit questions, comments, inquiries, etc. to the Building Doctor, State Historic Preservation Office, Department of History, Arts and Libraries, Michigan Historical Center, PO Box 30740, Lansing, MI 48909-8240, or by email at preservation@michigan.gov.

Battle Pointe Cemetery Preserved

Dean Anderson
Historical Archaeologist

Battle Point is a nineteenth century Ottawa cemetery located in Ottawa County, Michigan. The site continues to be a sacred place to Ottawa people and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For decades, the Grand River eroded the bank along the cemetery's location exposing burials and leaving them vulnerable to looting and vandalism. Planning for the Battle Point stabilization project was initiated in 1996 as agencies sought a means of controlling the erosion and protecting and preserving the cemetery. In November 2001, after more than five years of hard work and dogged determination on the part of a host of participants, the project has come to successful completion.

During the early part of November, the construction contractor for the project placed large rocks below the waterline to establish a firm foothold for the stabilization treatment. From that base, smaller rock was distributed along the bank high enough to protect against high spring runoff water levels. Above the rock layer, the contractor placed woody vegetation along the upper portion of the bank to help hold the soil in place. These measures will stop the erosion of the riverbank and prevent further disturbance of the cemetery.

The commitment and cooperation of a number of people, representing several different groups, agencies and institutions, made the preservation of Battle Point a reality. The participants included: the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Timberland Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc., Grand Valley State University, and the Michigan Historical Center.

Stroh Brewery Marker Returns to Michigan

Laura Ashlee

Historic Preservation Coordinator

With the help of Assistant Attorney General Michael Reilly, the SHPO's eighteen-month effort to recover the Stroh Brewery historical marker has come to an end. The marker, believed to have been destroyed when the Detroit brewery was demolished, was posted for sale on eBay in July 2000. A concerned eBay customer reported the posting to the SHPO.

John McCarthy of Adam and Eve Salvage, a demolition contractor, acquired the marker among the contents of an estate located in Palm Beach, Florida. Before bidding on the demolition, Mr. McCarthy estimated that he could sell the marker for \$1,000.

It is not known how the marker ended up in Florida. John Stroh believes that the marker was stolen from a Stroh warehouse. Although the marker states "Property of the State of Michigan," Mr. McCarthy considered it his property and told the press he could sell it for upwards of \$5,000 to a collector or bar owner. The three-day-old posting, with a starting bid of \$500, had not attracted any customers. Upon notification by the state that the marker was state property, eBay closed the posting.

The state of Michigan owns all Michigan Historical Markers, identifiable by the wolverine at the top and the words "Michigan Registered Historic Site." Markers only have one purpose—to interpret the state's history. Mr. McCarthy refused to acknowledge the state's ownership, and the state filed suit in Florida seeking return of the marker and money damages. The state offered \$1,000 because it was satisfied that Mr. McCarthy had not taken the marker from Michigan. Mr. McCarthy demanded \$2,500, which the state refused. The question came down to whether the state remained the rightful owner, or whether McCarthy was a "bona fide purchaser" since he had paid for the contents of the estate. As the state built a strong case, Mr. McCarthy's attorney reopened negotiations with Mr. Reilly. The parties settled on \$1,000, the state's original offer.

The marker arrived safe and sound at the Michigan Historical Center on January 9.

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The Beautiful-Bountiful-Michigan tile, created in 1984 for the Yes! Michigan campaign, is featured with permission from Pewabic Pottery of Detroit. Mary Chase Perry Stratton and Horace J. Caulkins founded Pewabic Pottery, known for its iridescent glazes and architectural tile work found in buildings throughout the United States. Pewabic Pottery is a National Historic Landmark. Rendering by Patrick Reed.

For more information on any SHPO News item, contact the SHPO by phone at 517.373.1630, by e-mail at preservation@sosmail.state.mi.us, or visit our web site at www.sos.state.mi.us/history/preserve/preserve.html.

National Register Nominations

At its November 16, 2001 meeting in Lansing, the State Historic Preservation Review Board approved nomination of eight properties to the National Register of Historic Places. They include an early automobile plant and school for physically challenged children in Detroit, the church in Pokagon where the hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" was first performed, a barn, an armory, and a state park that retains much of its 1930s plan and features. They also include Marshall's Store at 102 East St. Joseph in

Lawrence, Van Buren County. Better known locally by the "De Havens Store" name painted in black and white above the storefront, the three-story brick Italianate building was constructed in 1874 to house local businessman Hannibal M. Marshall's store, the largest in Lawrence. Standing at the four corners in the heart of the village, the store is the largest and most intact Italianate commercial building in



Marshall's store, Lawrence.

Lawrence and is a landmark for its size, architectural distinction, and overall state of preservation for all of southwestern Michigan. Levi De Haven bought the store in 1906, and the business continued to operate under the De Havens Store name until 1965, when the store closed for good. Steve and Jan Peterson, the current owners, plan to rehabilitate the building using the federal and state investment tax credits and to use it for its original purpose – to house a grocery and dry-goods store, a business the community has lacked since De Havens Store closed.

The nominated properties are:

- *Fidelity Building, 162 Pipestone St., Benton Harbor
- *Milk Producers Company Barn, 47 S. Cass St., Battle Creek
- *First Methodist Episcopal Church of Pokagon, 60041 Vermont St., Pokagon Twp., Cass County
- *J. W. Wells State Park, M-35, Cedarville Twp., Menominee County
- *Saginaw Armory, 234 S. Water St., Saginaw
- *Marshall's Store, 102 E. St. Joseph St., Lawrence, Van Buren County
- *Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, 411 Piquette Ave., Detroit
- *Nellie Leland School, 1395 Antietam St., Detroit

Preservation Profile

DOIN' THE RIGHT THING

After ten years and several nearly fatal challenges the **Inn on Ferry Street** is complete and open for business. This spectacular project took four moldering late Victorian era residences and two associated carriage houses, located in Detroit's East Ferry Avenue Historic District, and transformed them into a 42-room, luxury, bed and breakfast. Located at the corner of East Ferry and John R, the Inn offers a unique lodging experience with ready access to many cultural and entertainment activities. The project was a cooperative venture led by the Detroit Institute of the Arts, the University Cultural Center Association and Preservation Wayne. The project combined several sources of public and private financing including federal and state tax credits.



On October 17, 2001, the Washtenaw County Planning Commission voted 14 to 1 to create a 67.68 acre local historic district for **Gordon Hall**, the 1843 Greek Revival home of Judge Samuel Dexter, located on Island Lake Road just west of the village of Dexter. The University of Michigan (U of M) has owned the property since 1950. Last summer, U of M announced its intention to sell the property and offered to create a 2.5-acre local historic

THREATENED

A former Michigan Centennial Farm is threatened by development. The **Ellis Farm** in Springfield Township, Oakland County, will soon be incorporated into a housing subdivision. The developer intends to retain the farm residence, but the fourteen thousand square foot barn, possibly the largest in Michigan, will be demolished if it cannot be moved to a new location. The 1884 barn is in excellent condition and its Double Dutch (Madaswaska Twin) design is very rare in the Midwest. The developer has offered to donate the barn to Oakland County and to provide some financial assistance for its removal. While Oakland County has applied for a TEA-21 grant to move the barn to a nearby county park, the future of this structure is uncertain.

Holland's newest historic district of 187 properties, identified as the **Washington Boulevard Historic District (WBHD)**, was established by Holland's city council with 8

votes in support and one vote in opposition on November 7, 2001. Although contiguous to the existing Holland Historic District of 180



properties, the WBHD has its own character and identity and therefore was established as a separate district. Shortly after the November 7 vote, opponents to the establishment of the district hired a local attorney who led them through the requirements for a petition to require city council to either repeal the ordinance or force a citywide referendum vote on the issue. Opponents have secured the requisite number of signatures required by state election law. The council will consider its options during a January meeting.

district to protect the house itself. Public outcry over the sale caused re-evaluation of the proposed district boundaries and U of M agreed to a compromise of a 20-acre district that included a historic drive and tree line and a portion of the home's magnificent view shed. Local citizens and the Dexter Historical Society strongly opposed the compromise and pressed for district boundaries that included all 68 acres of the property. The property is still up for sale and the Dexter Historical Society hopes to raise the funds to purchase it for use as a museum and park. U of M should be commended for

its willingness to protect the property by creating a local historic district before putting it up for sale, its willingness to compromise to protect historic features of the property, and its acceptance of the final district boundaries. The citizens of Washtenaw County should be congratulated for their proactive approach and perseverance that resulted in the protection of the property as a whole. Gordon Hall is one of the state's premier early settlement sites and the creation of the local historic district will preserve an important piece of Michigan's history.

CHALLENGED: SOUTH FOX ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

It appears the much-contested land swap between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and developer David Johnson will not include the neglected **South Fox Island Lighthouse**. This means the lighthouse will remain in pub-

lic ownership under the DNR, which acquired the lighthouse and its surrounding property from the federal government in 1980. While this turn of events is good news for the public ownership of lighthouses, the DNR, which owns about

eight Michigan lighthouses, has been unable to maintain this historic resource. The Michigan Lighthouse Project is working to help identify potential stewards who could partner with the DNR to care for this lighthouse into the future.